

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
C. & S. B. REGISTRY  
No. S.B.D. 2464/18  
Date 5. 8. 31  
Date August 5, 1931.

Subject (in full) Movements of John Hay Thorburn prior to his disappearance.

Made by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Forwarded by \_\_\_\_\_ D.I. Ross

I forward herewith a supplementary statement which was taken by me from Hsu Ah Foo (徐阿富), chauffeur employed with Taylor Garage, on the instructions of Mr. Mossop, Crown Advocate.

Provided you agree a copy of same will be handed to Mr. Mossop by the undersigned.

*S.B. Ross*  
D. I.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

*S.B. (crime)*

Information. Subject to your agreement a copy of the chauffeur's supplementary statement will be given to Mr Mossop.

*J.P. Siniers*  
O. i/c Sp. Br.  
5. 8. 31

*Yes please*  
*5/8/31 S.B.*

O'ic. S.B.

*Done*  
*S.B.R.*  
*5/8*

*Please hand copy*  
*to Mr Mossop as suggested.*  
*J.P. Siniers*  
*5. 8. 31.*

# SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

## REPORT OF POLICE INVESTIGATIONS.

<sup>SUPPLEMENTARY</sup>  
The following is the statement of Hsu Ah Foo ( 许阿福 ), Chauffeur employed with Taylor Garage,  
native of \_\_\_\_\_ taken by me D.I. Ross  
at 9 a.m. on the 5.8.31 and interpreted by D.I. Kuh

The foreigner who engaged the car on the morning of June 1, arrived at the garage on foot. He was wearing a brown coloured jacket and a white topee. He was alone and carried no luggage. The only time I saw him carrying a bag was when he left No.96 Boone Road at about 7 a.m. in company with a foreign woman. It was of a brownish colour.

After engaging the car the foreigner instructed me to go to Boone Road and told me in English, to proceed via the following roads; Burkill, Park, Bubbling Well, Nanking, Szechuen, Peking, Museum, Chapeo to Boone Road. He did not stop at the Palace Hotel or any other place enroute.

When he left No.96 Boone Road and proceeded to Shanghai North Station, he was still dressed in the same clothes.

Memorandum.

POLICE FORCE,  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

To b. D. S. Robertson <sup>Shanghai</sup> July 14, 1931 (S.L.C.) H.R.

Officer of Information H.R.

Sir

In accordance with instructions received I visited Mr. Blackburn to-day and at his request gave him a copy of my report. He returned the motor-car "chit" dated June 1, 1931

Mr. Blackburn does not wish the Police to make any inquiries from Mrs Roberts

The remaining "chits" have been returned to Messrs. Thorburn

Sergeant

File J.M.

J. Montgomery  
14-7-31. To S. 1.

Memorandum.

POLICE FORCE,  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,

Shanghai, 8: 7: 1931.

To

SI,

Please endeavour  
to clear up the  
mystery of the pale  
blue shirt. It is  
dated June 3rd  
and purports to have  
been signed by  
Thorburn. The  
remaining shirts  
have been attached  
to facilitate comparison  
of signatures.

JH

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL

REPORT

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
C. & S. B. REGISTRY File No.

No. *S. B. D. 2464*  
Date *13. 7. 31.*

Station

Date July 13, 1931.

Subject (in full) Motor-Car "Chit", issued by the Taylor Garage bearing the date June 3, 1931, purporting to have been signed by W.J. Hey-Thorburn.

Made by D.S.I. Montgomery

Forwarded by *Henry Robertson C.D.*

Inquiries into the above matter show that the attached green motor-car 'chit' was issued by the Horse Bazaar Branch of the Taylor Garage, at <sup>about</sup> 6 a.m. on June 1, 1931 and the front of the "chit" bears that date, the impression having been faintly made by a stamping clock. Subsequently, the "chit" was stamped three times on the reverse side by the Astor Road Branch of the above garage, whose stamping clock, owing to some irregularity, was incorrectly dated.

It appears that at about 6 a.m. on June 1, 1931 a foreigner who is described as being of slight build, though rather tall, of Portuguese appearance, dressed in brown clothes, presented himself at the Horse Bazaar 126 Bubbling Well Road, and ordered a car. He was allotted Motor Car No, 12104, driven by one Hsu Ah-foo (徐阿虎), (Licence No F. 6374), residing at 3 Yung Ka Jao (康家桥), off Jessfield Road. The foreigner instructed the chauffeur to drive him to 96 Boone Road and on arrival there, alighted and calling for the 'chit', signed it and under the signature wrote "T 46", at the same time writing on reverse side "Come back at 7.00 a.m. W.J.H.T.". After instructing the chauffeur verbally to return at 7 a.m., the foreigner went inside the building.

The driver then proceeded to the Astor Road Branch where he handed the 'chit' into the office. There it was placed in the stamping clock and an impression made in the reverse right hand corner. A further inscription was made in pencil "Astor Road Branch IN A.M. 6.22 " (It is to be noted that the times, according to the clock stamps do not tally with the pencilled notes. This is explained by the clock being out of order and the pencilled notes may be taken as approximately

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

Station, \_\_\_\_\_

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Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19

Subject (in full) \_\_\_\_\_

Made by \_\_\_\_\_

Forwarded by \_\_\_\_\_

correct.)

In order to be at 96, Boone Road in good time the car was dispatched from the garage at 6-50 a.m., the 'chit' again being stamped on the reverse side, in the middle, and a pencilled inscription made, "OUT a.m. 6-50". On arrival at the above address the chauffeur waited until about 7-5 a.m. when the foreigner came out carrying a suitcase and accompanied by a foreign woman, who is described as being of slight build. Ordering the chauffeur to drive them to the North Railway Station both persons got into the car and on arrival there both alighted and went inside the Station, telling the driver to wait, which he did on Boundary Road, as his car did not have a Chinese licence.

At about 7.30 a.m. the foreign woman returned alone and ordered the chauffeur to drive her to 315, rue Bourgeat, the residence of Hay-Thorburn, Senior and his son. The chauffeur not knowing the exact location of the house went about 25 yards past the door, where he brought the car to a standstill. The passenger then got out of the car and went to the house and without entering, handed a letter to Mr. Hay-Thorburn Senior and returned to the car immediately. This information is corroborated by Mr. Thorburn who states that the letter was handed to him at about 7.50 a.m. June 1, 1931 my a Mrs. W.P. Roberts, Flat No. 6, 96 Boone Road, The letter is mentioned in the original report of young Thorburn's disappearance, dated June 1, 1931.

From No 315 rue Burgeat, the chauffeur was ordered to drive back to 96 Boone Road and on arrival there handed the 'chit' to the foreign woman who wrote on the front "time 15

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

Station, \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

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Subject (in full) \_\_\_\_\_

Made by \_\_\_\_\_

Forwarded by \_\_\_\_\_

past eight", the car then being dismissed and the driver receiving a gratuity. The chauffeur then proceeded to the Astor Road Branch and handed in the "chit" and reported the places visited during the trip. The "chit" was stamped and a pencilled inscription made on reverse left hand corner "In-a.m.-8.20". A note was made at the bottom of the "chit", "North Station, Ru Vallon, Boone Road". It appears that a mistake was made in recording Rue Vallon in place of rue BURGEST.

The inscription "T 46" is the Thorburn's serial number at the French Club where the Taylor Garage can collect motor debts through the club.

Mr. Thorburn does not doubt that the "chit" in question was signed by his son.

S.I. passed on verbal instruction  
to O'K. S.B.

D.S.I. Montgomery.

JBR. 14/7

Please comply with the  
instructions of the C.S.C. as  
addressed to S. I.

D. S. I.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

S.I.

Please return the chit to  
Mr. Hay-Thorburn, who should be requested  
to allow the Police to retain the chit if June 1st  
or it might be kept on the file of the case in  
the British Consulate. Please hand  
Mr. Blackburn a copy of this report, and ask him  
if he wishes to have inquiries made from  
Mr. Roberts.

13:7:21



Memorandum.

POLICE FORCE,  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,

Shanghai,

Aug. 9. 1931.

To

Reg.

S.C. (C) interviewed  
on Aug. 9. by under-  
signed -

Copy of report and  
statements of Hoich Hsin fu,  
handed to Mr. Morson on  
Aug 7.

J. B. Ku. / s.



## DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

(CRIME BRANCH)

Memorandum.POLICE FORCE,  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

Shanghai

1931

To Dear Mr. Morosoff

Herewith the  
Supplementary statement.  
Not of much value I  
am afraid. I will  
send someone to see  
Dr. Robertson's Coolie  
& see what we can  
do at Henli in a  
confidential way.

Yours  
S. A. Davis